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--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of providing an indication of pH levels in an animal can alternatively be used to provide an indication of stress in an animal. Since pH and temperature are related to ultimate meat quality, the method of the invention may also be used to provide an indication of ultimate meat quality. In the method, periodic measurements are obtained corresponding to the body temperature of the animal. An algorithm is applied to the measurements obtained. The algorithm cumulatively takes account of variations of body temperature over time. The results of the algorithm are compared to a pre-determined threshold. Alternatively, the results of the algorithm may be compared with a standard to provide a quantitative indication of pH, stress or meat tenderness. A system for providing an indication of meat quality/stress levels or pH levels in an animal is also provided.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the pending claims as follows:

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*AV* 1. (Amended) A method of indicating pH levels in an animal, the method comprising:  
a) obtaining measurements corresponding to a body temperature of the animal at periodic sampling intervals;  
b) applying an algorithm to the measurements obtained from a) which algorithm cumulatively takes account of variations in body temperature over time; and  
c) comparing the results of the algorithm to a predetermined threshold.